

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Thrice amended) A storage system , comprising: two or more pouches including an ultimate pouch and a penultimate pouch; each one of the pouches adapted for holding a content and/or insert; each pouch having a front pouch lip and a rear pouch lip forming a pouch mouth; a flexible coupling portion joining the pouches sequentially pouch lip to pouch lip; the flexible coupling portion including a span of flexible material extending from the rear pouch lip of a first pouch to the front pouch lip of the next pouch, in a series of pouches; said flexible coupling material portion including hinges along connections at of each of the pouch lips, as well as a hinging portion in the span of the flexible coupling material portion between the pouch lips; wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches. ~~said manipulation being selected from the group consisting of closing, paging, tipping, fan, accordion, parallel, push down, pull up, and reversible.~~
2. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
3. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of transparent material.
4. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein seams formed by heat welding connect side and bottom margins of each pouch.
5. (amended once) The storage system of claim 4, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible material for holding a content.
6. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible material, and the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
7. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible, transparent material, and the pouches are rectilinear and planar.

8. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a means for hanging the storage system is affixed to the ultimate pouch.
9. (original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the means for hanging the storage system is a perforated flap of the pouch material forming the rear wall of the ultimate pouch and extending above the ultimate pouch-lip.
10. (original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the means for hanging the storage system is a loop affixed to the rear wall of the ultimate pouch or optionally to a flap of the pouch material forming the rear wall of the ultimate pouch and extending above the ultimate pouch-lip.
11. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the length of the flexible coupling portion joining the penultimate pouch to the ultimate pouch is elongated such that it permits the elongated coupling portion to wrap around the coupling portion side of the compacted storage system and when so wrapped to permit the ultimate pouch to abut the face of the first pouch in the storage system, wherein the ultimate pouch is sized to have a longer length of pouch or flap affixed to the pouch to permit the longer ultimate length when so wrapped to enclose the bottom of the compacted storage system, and wherein a first fastening means is disposed on or near the end of the longer length to engage a corresponding fastening means positioned on the rear wall of the penultimate pouch, thereby securing the compacted storage system in a compacted state when the first fastening means is engaged with the corresponding fastening means on the rear wall of the ultimate pouch.
12. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the coupling portion is creased latitudinally and approximately mid-way between the pouch-lips it joins.
13. (withdrawn-currently amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the manipulation is selected from the group consisting of closing, paging, tipping/fan, accordion, parallel, push down, reverse parallel, and pull up modes.
14. (amended twice) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a divider is inserted in one or more of the pouches.

15. (amended once) The storage system of claim 4, wherein additional seams are formed each pouch to join the side and/or bottom seams to form internal compartments in the pouch.
16. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are sized for planar records selected from the group consisting of film, transparencies, documents, music discs, video discs, memory modules, and patient records.
17. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the pouch mouths which are formed by the pouch lips are sealed and a content which is selected from the group consisting of liquid, gel, powder, and a substance that degrades when exposed to the atmosphere is inserted in one or more of the pouches.
18. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein an exterior pocket is fabricated on one or more of the pouches.
19. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, adapted for use in retail dispensers.
20. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, adapted to dispense medications selected from the group consisting of pills, ointments, nutritional supplements, and IV fluids.
21. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouch mouths are sealed by seals selected from the group consisting of permanent seals and resealable seals.
22. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the pouch mouths which are formed by the pouch lips are sealed by resealable seals and ~~the~~ an insert a content which is selected from the group consisting of liquid, gel, powder, and a substance that degrades when exposed to the atmosphere is inserted in one or more of the pouches.
23. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the pouches have a tear-off corner.

24. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a divider is embedded or laminated in one or more of the pouches.
25. (amended once) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more of the pouches are constructed with an exterior pocket selected from the group consisting of sealed pocket or open-mouthed pocket.
26. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 25, wherein an interior abutting wall shared by the exterior pocket and the pouch can be ruptured more easily than the exterior walls of the exterior pocket and of the pouch.
27. (amended once) The storage system of claim 26, wherein mixing of contents of the exterior pocket and contents of the pouch is enabled by rupture of the interior abutting wall.
28. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed of transparent material.
29. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 28, wherein the transparent material is suitable for trans-illumination and viewing of the pouch contents.
30. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are labeled.
31. (withdrawn) The storage system of claim 30, wherein the labels are selected from the group preprinted, writable, erasable, color-coded, bar-coded, Braille, extrusion, depression, permanent, and removable.
32. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed to conform to the size and shape of planar inserts to be stored in the pouches.
33. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed to conform to the size and shape of non-planar inserts to be stored in the pouches.
34. (cancelled) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first and last pouch in a series of pouches are joined sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of

the joined set of pouches, and wherein the joined series of pouches forms an endless loop.

35. (cancelled) The storage system of claim 1 or 34, wherein the pouches are disposed on a transport mechanism to enable manual or automated handling of inserts, which handling is selected from the group storage, identification, selection, retrieval, and dispensing.
36. (previously presented) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the last pouch in the storage system is adapted to be a wrap-around cover of the closed storage system.
37. (cancelled) The storage system of claim 1, wherein two or more pouches have perforations in, or loops affixed to, margins of the two or more pouches to permit handling of part or all of the storage system, which handling is selected from the group consisting of selecting of pouches, binding of pouches, and hanging of pouches.
38. (cancelled) The storage system of claim 1, wherein made two or more storage systems are serially fastened end-to-end to form a longer chain of chained pouches or an endless loop of chained pouches, and wherein the fastening means is selected from the group fasteners disposed through perforations in the coupling portions of the fastened pouches, fasteners disposed through perforations in portions of the fastened pouches other than the coupling portion, heat-welding of coupling portions of the fastened pouches in a manner that creates a coupling portion between fastened pouches essentially identical to the coupling portions of the other pouches in the fastened chains of pouches, fasteners disposed through loops affixed to the coupling portions of the fastened pouches, and fasteners disposed through loops affixed to portions of the fastened pouches other than the coupling portion.
39. (withdrawn) The storage system of claim 1, wherein prior to assembly the material side forming the exterior of the pouches is printed with text or other visual information so that after assembly the chain is paged through sequentially.